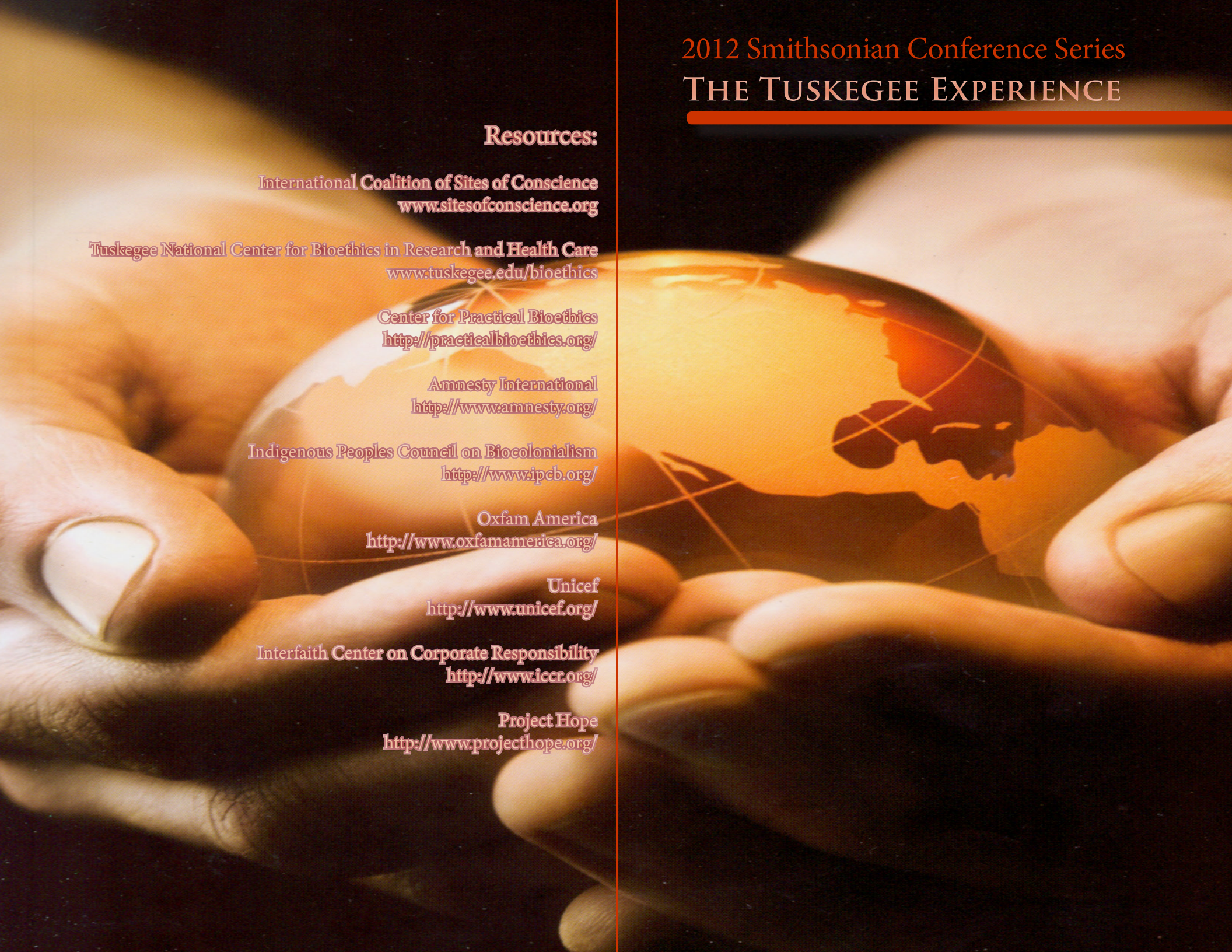


Resources:

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience
www.sitesofconscience.org

Tuskegee National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care
www.tuskegee.edu/bioethics

Center for Practical Bioethics
http://practicalbioethics.org/

Amnesty International
http://www.amnesty.org/

Indigenous Peoples Council on Biocolonialism
http://www.ipcb.org/

Oxfam America
http://www.oxfamamerica.org/

Unicef
http://www.unicef.org/

Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility
http://www.iccr.org/

Project Hope
http://www.projecthope.org/

2012 Smithsonian Conference Series

The Tuskegee Experience

The Tuskegee Experience

Classic scholarship identifies three types of memory in ancient culture. First, there is the more sentimental recall of personally significant moments. Second, there is the passively detached memory of past historical events. A third sense of memory has great significance. This is a type of active remembering wherein the past reinterprets the present in the hope of the future. With this scholarship in mind, this year we remember the 80th anniversary of the beginning of the unethical human research syphilis experiments that were conducted for 40 years in the community of Tuskegee, AL. Some citizens today may recall those events with individual remorse. Others may assign these atrocities as tragedies "back then and over there," but not possible today. Yet the 2010-2011 revelations of even worse experimentation perpetuated by the sames scientists on the poor of Guatemala bring back the Tuskegee Experience forcefully before our eyes. Did Tuskegee occur simply because of poor oversight? Did these tragic experiments occur because of a lack of regulation or law? Perhaps these events, as well as other horrors such as the Holocaust, occured most fundamentally because of the ever-present possibility of dehumanization and moral objectification of persons. In short, we always live in fear of human persons tragically being demeaned for the sake of power, domination and gain. Sometimes others are used under a false veneer of "progress." How did we respond? This conference will be a significant moment in which to engage in the above-mentioned third type of remembering that scholars call: "prophetic memory." We will enter into this educational event as a type of living metaphor. Our purpose will not be to engender shame or guilt. Rather we will maturely enter into the realities of the past so as to re-imagine a deeper sense of human care in ourselves today, and thereby build a future never again marred by a holocaust of any kind. This conference will be a rich moment in time to prevent the worst by promoting the best of who we are and what we can do to protect the dignity and respect that is fundamental to being human.

Schedule of Events

10:15 AM Opening Welcome
Scott Robinson, Smithsonian Institution

10:30 AM Conference Introduction
Dr. Edward Gabriele, Navy Medicine

10:45 AM Opening Keynote
Rueben Warren, DDS, MPH, DrPH, MDiv
Professor and Director
Tuskegee University National Center for
Bioethics in Research & Health Care

11:30 AM Keynote Response
Carmen Head, MPH
Educational Director, Spina Bifida Association

12:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM First Panel Discussion: Advances and Horizons
Moderator: Elizabeth Holmes, PhD, ABPP
Panelists:
Ruth Perot, MAT
Mill Etienne, MD
Chaplain De Herman, RPSD
Judith Wilimas, MD

2:30 PM Break

3:00 PM First Panel Discussion: Impact on the Professions
Moderator: Elizabeth Holmes, PhD, ABPP
Panelists:
Charmagne Beckett, MD
Clementine Fujimura, PhD
Thomas Shu, RN
Rev. Lorenzo York, DMin

4:30 PM Summary Reflections:
Ruth Pope, Co-Founder, The Appalachian Foundation

4:50 PM Closing:
Dr. Gabriele